
MINUTE 51 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Department of Conservation Comment on Central Otago District Council
Land-Use Condition 69
Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
[FTAA-2507-1089]
[11 September 2026]

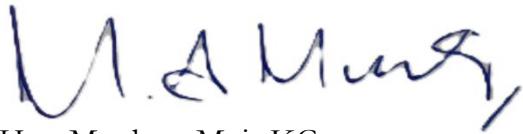
[1] This Minute arises out of Department of Conservation's (DOC's) comment on Condition 69 of the Central Otago District Council (CODC) land use conditions, particularly in relation to the establishment of that part of Ardgour Rise which lies within the Ardgour Conservation Area.

[2] MGL will have noted DOC's concern that the proposed condition does not allow adequate time for relevant processes to take place under the Public Works Act 1981 to transfer the relevant area from Crown ownership to that of CODC and that, as CODC is not part of the Crown, the transfer may trigger rights of first refusal (RFR) under Part 9 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, with notice required to be given to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu prior to disposal.

[3] The Panel understands from DOC's comment that the achievability of the condition and the proposed Ardgour Rise in place of Thomson Gorge Road may be constrained more than MGL have anticipated. The Panel requests therefore that the issue be given specific attention in the submissions it anticipates receiving from MGL on 14 September and in the responses scheduled to follow.

[4] The Panel also notes DOC's concerns in respect of the processes proposed and the potential RFR implications in respect of the portions of State Highway 8 and Ardgour Road intersection that are on public conservation land and require

concessions. Again, the Panel requests that these concerns be addressed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Muir'.

Hon Matthew Muir KC

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel Chair